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ST. GEORGE'S RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Interim report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942.

Mr. Chairman & Councillors,

I beg to submit my report for 1942.

The scope of the report is restricted, as in the past three years, sanitary matters in connection with War measures, details of population etc. are to be omitted.

Section A. Statistics.

Births There were 243 live-births, of which 10 were illegitimate. Stillbirths numbered 10.

The Birth-rate was 13.4 compared with 15.8 for England and Wales.

The Still-birth rate is 38 per 1000 live and Stillbirths.

Deaths Deaths numbered 231 by the Registrar-General's return, but the local return showed 232. The death-rate was 12.5 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. There were 30 deaths from Cancer and 71 from Heart diseases. Two deaths were caused by Road Accidents. There were 8 deaths of infants from Premature birth and Congenital disease giving a rate of 32 per 1000 live births the rate for England and Wales being 49.

Section B. General Provisions of Health Services.

There has been no change since last year.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances.

This and the two following sections embrace the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Water Supply: The Council has acquired the Callington Waterworks Undertaking and this area is now under the Council's complete control. Except for a limited supply from springs above Isacombe and Glentor Adit the whole supply comes from the South East Cornwall Water Board's works, which brings approximately 490 houses under the Council's direct control. Most of the distribution mains are old and it is expected that their replacement by means of larger and more suitable pipes will shortly be undertaken.

There now remains only one small place in the District, Kelly Bray, which is being supplied with water other than under the Council's direct control.

44 additional services have been laid on for domestic purposes and 23 for Trade purposes.

Sewerage: no work of any importance has been undertaken.

Refuse Collection: The Dennis Refuse Collecting lorry has been replaced by a Ford of 10 cubic yards capacity and the service continues to perform excellent work both as regards domestic refuse and the salvage of materials for National purposes. The Council's contribution in this respect is valued at over £700.

Section D. Housing.

Although normal Housing Inspection work is not carried out because of the War, it has, however, been necessary to schedule certain premises for action under Section 9 & 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and by informal action a number of premises have been repaired.

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Section E.

Milk Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been carried out and a large percentage of the producers are obtaining accredited licences following their premises being brought up to standard. The question of more elaborate analysis of milk produced in the District is being considered in conjunction with the County Council, but a definite working scheme has not yet been carried into effect.

Meat The Council has agreed to contribute a portion of the salary of the Meat Inspector employed at the Slaughtering Centre at Tavistock, from which part this District is supplied.

Other Foods. Further extensive inspections of preserved foodstuffs have been made and not an insignificant amount was found to be unfit and disposed of.

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

There were 27 cases of Diphtheria, compared with 24 in 1941; four of these were in the Callington District, three in Calstock and twenty in the Millbrook area; these latter occurred in two outbreaks, one in the summer and the other in late November and December. Eighteen of the cases had not been immunised. Twenty were treated in Hospital; there was one death. Two of the cases were evacuees.

There were seven cases of Scarlet Fever as against 11 in 1941 and one of these was treated in hospital.

There were in addition 43 cases of Whooping Cough, 8 of Erysipelas, 5 of measles, 42 of pneumonia and 1 of Puerperal Pyrexia.

There was one death from measles.

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria has continued steadily and at the end of the year approximately 51.1% of children under 5 and 61.8% of children between 5 and 15 had been immunised. It is difficult to assess the exact percentage because of evacuees, a number of whom now have returned to their homes.

Tuberculosis. There was an increase in the number of cases reported. 20 cases of Lung Tuberculosis were reported, 4 of them being obtained from death returns; not having been previously reported and there were eight cases of other form of the disease.

There were seven deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs and two from other types.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of and thanks for the able assistance of Mr. Govett, Mr. Grylls and the staff under Mr. Govett, during the past year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

H.G.ROBINSON.